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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES
the AVENGERS
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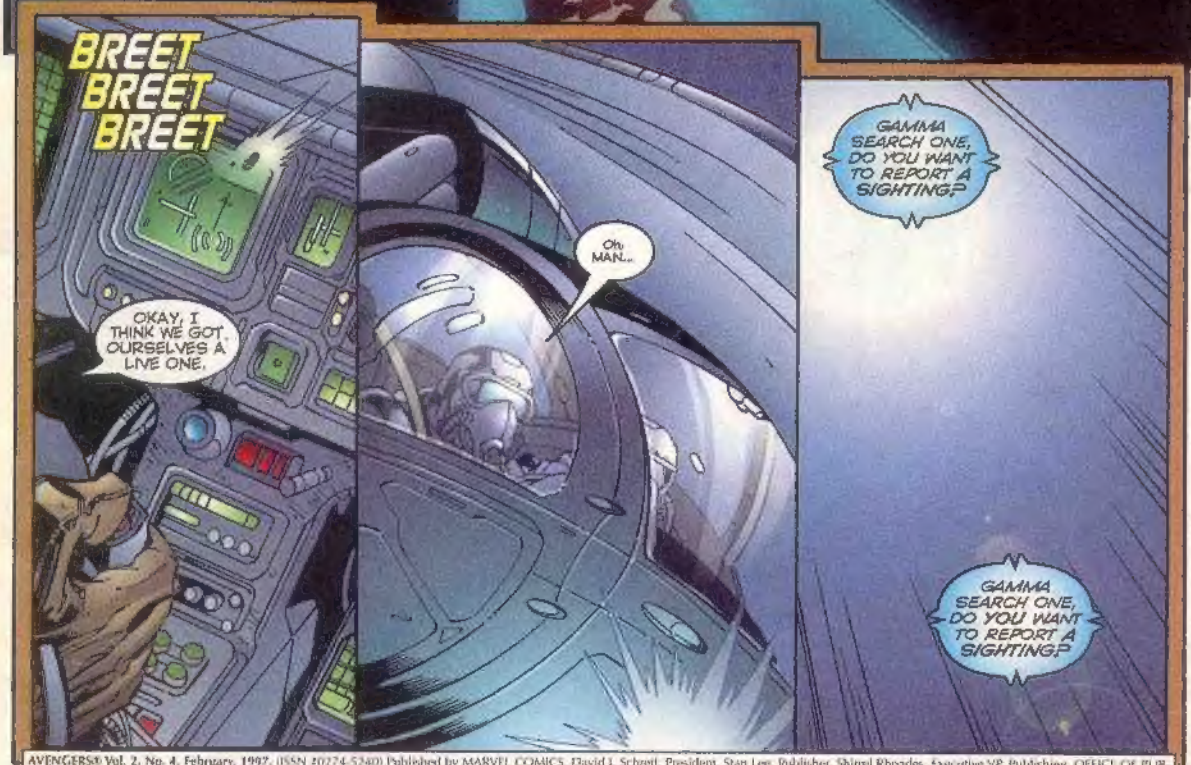
Rob Liefeld
Jeph Loeb
& Chap. Yaep

GAMMA READING
THIS IS GAMMA SEARCH ONE TO BASE.
GO AHEAD, GAMMA SEARCH ONE.
WE'RE GETTING UNUSUALLY HIGH READINGS AND MAY HAVE FOUND OUR TARGET.
CONFIRMED. PROCEED WITH CAUTION. YOU'RE DEALING WITH A MINDLESS ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION.


BREET BREET BREET
OKAY, I THINK WE GOT OURSELVES A LIVE ONE.
OH, MAN...
GAMMA SEARCH ONE, DO YOU WANT TO REPORT A SIGHTING?
GAMMA SEARCH ONE, DO YOU WANT TO REPORT A SIGHTING?

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THE TOWN OF MARLBORO IN UPSTATE NEW YORK.
SINCE GOING OVER NIAGARA FALLS WHILE BATTLING IRON MAN, HE HAS SLOWLY MADE HIS WAY HERE.*
DRIVEN BY SOMETHING... INTANGIBLE. A SPLINTER OF A MEMORY.
BUT, HOW COULD A MINDLESS ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION KNOW THAT AFTER LEAVING DAYTON, OHIO, THE CHILD NAMED BRUCE BANNER RELOCATED HERE?
YOUNG BRUCE HAD A PARTIALLY COLLAPSED LUNG AND AS SUCH, COULD NOT HAVE AN ACTIVE, NORMAL YOUTH.
WHILE OTHER KIDS PLAYED SOCCER AND BASEBALL, HE FOUND HIS ESCAPE IN SOMETHING ELSE:
SCIENCE.
AND DREAMED OF THE UNTOLD POWER OF THE GAMMA RAY...
...NEVER REALIZING HE WOULD SOMEHOW BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CREATION OF
THE SAVAGE
HULK
GAMMA SEARCH ONE, DO YOU --
YES! CONFIRMED. WHATEVER.
WE'VE FOUND THE TARGET!
WE'VE FOUND THE HULK!
* CHECK OUT IRON MAN #2 --> Rob!

STAN LEE PROUDLY PRESENTS:
"THAT WHICH GODS HAVE JOINED TOGETHER..."
ROB LIEFELD
PLOT/EDITS
JEPH LOEB
PLOT/SCRIPT
CHAP YAEP & IAN CHURCHILL
PENCILS
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/JD
LETTERS
ANDY TROY
COLORS
EXTREME COLOR ENHANCEMENT
BOB HARRAS
EDITOR
SPECIAL THANKS TO JIM VALENTINO
ANTMAN DESIGN BY IAN CHURCHILL
BANNER!
HULK KNOWS YOU ARE HERE.
HULK WILL FIND YOU!

BREET BREET BREET

GAMMA READING 98.9

WHAT THE ---

ACCORDING TO THESE READINGS —

-- THIS... *HULK* HAS GOTTA BE *RIGHT* UNDER US, BUT --

GET LIGHT OUT OF HULK'S FACE!

PULL UP!
EVASIVE ACTION NOW!
GAMMA SEARCH ONE, DO YOU COPY?
GAMMA SEARCH ONE, ARE YOU THERE?!
RRRRAAARR

GAMMA SEARCH ONE!

REPORT STATUS!

...um...

WE...um... HAD A LITTLE INSTRUMENT PROBLEM, BUT WE ARE IN PURSUIT.

NEGATIVE. HOLD YOUR PRESENT POSITION UNTIL THE GAMMA OPS ARRIVE.

CAN YOU MAINTAIN VISUAL CONTACT?

NOT A PROBLEM.

THE HULK IS GIVING OFF A GAMMA TRAIL YOU CAN SEE FOR --

-- MILES...

BREET

GAMMA READING 0.00
RADAR 0.00 SONAR 0.00
VISUAL 0.00

HE -- HE COULDN'T HAVE JUST VANISHED?

COULD HE?

I DON'T KNOW.

BUT, WHAT'S *WORSE* --

-- I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* WE'RE GOING TO REPORT TO GENERAL ROSS...

AVENGERS ISLAND OFF NEW YORK CITY.

THE MEDI-LAB OF Dr. HENRY PYM.

CONTINUING PYM SCIENCE JOURNAL. SUBJECT: SYNTHEZOID BEING KNOWN AS *THE VISION*.

ULTRON 4 RECORDING DATA.

FOLLOWING ALTERCATION WITH CHRONAL ANOMALY *KANG* [CROSS REF FILE 298].

THE VISION HAS CEASED FUNCTIONING.*

* SEE LAST ISH --> Rob!

INTERNAL SURGICAL EXPLORATION BEGUN BY FATHER/CREATOR HENRY PYM.

LET'S JUST SAY "Dr. PYM," AND LEAVE IT AT THAT.

DELETION/ CORRECTION NOTED.

FATHER/ CREATOR.

...

IT'S THE ODDEST THING, ULTRON.

EVEN THOUGH I KNOW, SCIENTIFICALLY, THAT THIS IS MY FIRST USE OF THE MICRON GAS ON AN ORGANIC BEING --

-- I.E., ME.

I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT I'VE TRIED THIS BEFORE.

THAT WOULD BE HIGHLY ILLOGICAL.

NEVER-THELESS...

...KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE TIME LAPSE.

THEORETICALLY, MY OWN INTERNAL ORGANS CANNOT FUNCTION AT THIS SIZE FOR VERY LONG...

...WITHOUT THE DANGER OF MASSIVE CARDIAC AND PULMONARY DAMAGE.

ULTRON?

ULTRON!

SNAP

YOUR CONCERN IS NOTED.

FATHER/ CREATOR.

HANK?

WHO --?

HOW MAY I BE OF SERVICE, JANET?

WHERE IS Dr. PYM?

AND DON'T CALL ME "JANET".

DR. PYM HAS NOT BEEN PRESENT.

HE HAS LEFT ME ALONE TO RESEARCH THE VISION'S VITAL SIGNS AND STATUS.

ME.

ALONE.

ULTRON 4.

SUNRISE AT HYDE PARK, UPSTATE, NEW YORK

HULK DOES NOT KNOW WHERE HULK IS.

BUT, HULK IS THIRSTY

BANNER. ?

BANNER!

HULK WILL FIND YOU, BANNER!
AND WHEN HULK DOES --
I CAN CLEF YOU
WHY DOES BIRD TALK?
KNOW WHERE BANNER IS.
A PLACE CALLED AVENGER ISLAND

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.

THE HOME OF AGATHA HARKNESS.

MEROW!

HAVE CARE, EBONY.

CAN'T UHK BLAME A CAT FOR TRYING. LOK!

AND MORTALS SAY ONLY *THEIR* GOD CAN MAKE A TREE. *HA!*

MEDDLE AGAIN IN THE AFFA RS OF *THE GOD OF MISCHIEF* --

-- AND THOU WILL SUFFER A FATE *WORSE* THAN THY MISTRESS --

-- AGATHA HARKNESS

AT THAT EXACT SAME MOMENT ON AVENGERS ISLAND

IN THE QUARTERS OF THE SCARLET WITCH IS NONE OTHER THAN

AGATHA HARKNESS?

WANDA, I SENSE YOU WILL BE IN GRAVE DANGER

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU TAKE MY WARNING SERIOUSLY

I AM TAKING IT SERIOUSLY, AGATHA!

ALL I'M SAYING IS THAT THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE YOU BROUGHT ME HERE

THERE'S THOR NOW AND WE BEAT KANG. ALL YOUR TRAINING IS PAYING OFF.

I'VE CHANGED, TOO

THIS IS NOT OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

YOU WILL ACCOMPANY ME NOW.

I. ALL RIGHT

BUT

...SHOULDN'T I, AT LEAST, TELL THE OTHERS?

BELIEVE ME, CHILD

THEY'LL KNOW...

THE BOWERY. THE LOWER END OF MANHATTAN.
BARKEEP! TWO MORE PINTS!
YOU'RE THE OWNER, GUS. JUST ASK HIM TO LEAVE
HE'S BEEN HERE ALL NIGHT.
I CAN'T DO THAT. HE'S AN AVENGER.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I DON'T KNOW
THEY'RE LIKE COPS, ONLY MORE IMPORTANT
WELL, HE SCARES ME
I SWEAR I HEARD HIM TALKING TO HIS HAMMER
MJOLNIR

AVENGERS ISLAND THE TRAINING ROOM
GOOD.
CLANG
BUT, YOU FORGOT TO FOLLOW THROUGH, SWORDSMAN
BOOM
AND IT COST YOU YOUR WEAPON.
IN THIS BUSINESS, IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO TAKE BOLD STEPS --
-- IF YOU HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES.
YOU DON'T THINK MUCH OF ME, DO YOU, CAP?
I TRY NOT TO MAKE SNAP JUDGMENTS --
-- ABOUT ANYONE.
NOW, LET'S TRY IT AGAIN!

THE SURVEILLANCE CENTER. WHERE THE BOWMAN KNOWN AS HAWKEYE WATCHES --
Y'KNOW... THE GUY WHO CAME UP WITH "MONITOR DUTY" OUGHTA BE SHOT.
-- NEVER REALIZING THAT HE HIMSELF IS BEING WATCHED...
. BY THE ENIGMATIC HELLCAT.
PUZZLES. PUZZLES.
WHAT ARE YOU HIDING BEHIND THAT MASK, HAWKEYE?
AND WILL CURIOSITY KILL THIS HELLCAT?
VAOOM VAOOM VAOOM
MAN-O-MAN-O-MAN.
LOOK ALIVE, PEOPLE --
WE'VE GOT INCOMING!

WHERE IS BANNER?!
I DON'T KNOW. AND I DON'T CARE.
BUT, WHEN A B G, GREEN, NAKED GUY BUSTS INTO MY HOUSE --
-- I PUT HIM DOWN!

ZZRAK
ARRRGH
WHERE IS BANNER?!
NNGGNN
FLIK!

MORE MEN COME.
BUT, HULK DOES NOT SEE BANNER.
CAP. WHAT IS IT?
I... DON'T KNOW.
THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REPORTS ABOUT SOME KIND OF GAMMA RADIATING CREATURE --
-- LINKED WITH STARK ENTERPRISES.
MAN WITH KNIVES WILL TELL HULK WHERE BANNER IS.
NOPE.
"MAN WITH KNIVES" IS GOING TO MAKE YOU SORRY FOR BREAKING IN HERE.
HULK IS NOT SORRY.
HULK IS HULK.
KRAK
KRAK
AAAAA

ENOUGH.
WE DON'T HAVE *ANYONE* IN THIS FACILITY NAMED "BANNER".
ALTHOUGH... IN THE S.H.I.E.L.D. FILES THERE'S A "*BRUCE BANNER*".
HE HAD A HAND IN DESIGNING THE *GAMMA CORE* THAT RUNS AVENGERS ISLAND.
IS THERE A CONNECTION WITH THIS... HULK?
FLAGMAN HURT HULK WITH DISH.
YOU *HAD* TO BE STOPPED, HULK.

CHUK
RRAARGH
NO.
NO!
BOOM

HULK WILL FIND YOU, BANNER.

NOTHING CAN STOP HULK!

NEXT

THOR VS. HULK

'NUFF SAID!